

OBEY BRIEFED ON BERRY PLASTICS' MILITARY RATIONING PACKAGING

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Chippewa Falls today to be briefed on how Berry Plastics is using \$3.6 million in federal funding obtained by Obey for the company's development of flexible, tamper-resistant packaging for military rations.

"With troops deployed around the world, the U.S. military is always looking for new technology that will multiply the strength and effectiveness of each soldier and better sustain them in the field. Berry Plastics' work on next generation packaging is an important part of that new technology," Obey said. "Work being done right here in Chippewa Falls will help keep our soldiers' food fresh and safe and provide employment at the same time," he said.

Currently, military rations are packaged in foil. When exposed to freezing temperatures or hostile environments, the packaging cracks and pinholes. In addition, recent global events have raised significant concerns over the risk to the food supply from bioterrorism, theft, sabotage and other threats.

Berry Plastics is developing plastic packaging system that will improve ration quality and protect combat rations with tamper detection capabilities.

Formerly Pliant Corporation, Berry Plastics is a leading manufacturer and marketer of plastic packaging products. Berry Plastics is a major producer of a wide range of products, including open top and closed top packaging, polyethylene and PVC based plastic films, industrial tapes, medical specialties, packaging, heat-shrinkable coatings, specialty laminates, and FIBCs. The company's 13,000 plus customers range from large multinational corporations to small local businesses. Based in Evansville, Indiana, the company has 80 manufacturing facilities worldwide and over 16,000 employees, with 180 employees in Chippewa Falls.

###